

Date

Juliette Villaraonga
Probation and Parole Specialist/Adult for the New Orleans District
1641 Poland Ave.
New Orleans, La. 70117

Re: Board Docket No. 2020-915

Dear Ms. Villaraonga:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its February 5, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit you, a Probation and Parole Specialist, from accepting an honorarium from the North American Center for Continuing Medical Education. (NACCME)

FACTS PROVIDED

You stated that NACCME offered you an honorarium for your participation in a webinar. The request to participate in this webinar, leveraging a Team Approach to Medication Assisted Treatment for Patients with AUD and OUD, was made by the doctors that provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Alcohol Use Disorders AUD and Opioid Use Disorders OUD for Orleans Parish Re Entry Court. You provided that your participation in this webinar will address your experience as a Probation and Parole Officer in regard to team based strategies to ensure the appropriate use of MAT in AUD and OUD patient care. You stated that the Department of Corrections, Division of Probation and Parole has authorized your participation in the webinar.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a) prohibits a public servant from receiving any thing of economic value for any service, the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the agency of the public servant and in which the public servant has participated.

CONCLUSION

Because you would be providing services regarding matters related to your public job duties, Section 1111C(1)(a) of the Code would prohibit you from receiving any thing of economic value from NACCME in connection with your participation in the webinar.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Suzanne Quinlan Mooney
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.